The Library of Congress'

EARLY STATE RECORDS PROJECT

converted from the original microfilm held by the
Vincent C. Immel Law Library, Saint Louis University

through the generous support of a grant from the

Council on Library and Information Resources

This document contains handwritten text that may be partially illegible due to age, penmanship, or deterioration of the medium. LLMC has scanned the material in the same format and page order in which it is maintained in the source document taken from the collection "Records of the States of the United States of America, a microfilm compilation."

Vincennes 9th Augt. 1811.

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 2nd Inst: was duly delivered by Lieut. Whitlock— In a letter which I wrote to the Secretary of War shortly after the shocking affair which happened at Fort Knox I mentioned Mr Whitlock as a proper person to be entrusted with the command of that Post. The answer of the Secretary was that he had no other objection to Mr Whitlock being placed in that command but from its interference with his duties as Paymaster. He informed me also that a proper officer would be sent on. Under those Circumstances & knowing that the command of Lieut. Whitlock would be of very short continuance I had no hesitation in recommending to Mr W. not to deliver your letter to Capt: Taylor. Notwithstanding the very extraordinary manner by which Capt: T. became possessed of the command he certainly deserves no share of the blame. He disapproved indeed of the whole proceeding but he certainly had no alternative but to obey the order he had received. And placed in his situation I should have acted precisely as he has done altho Lt. Albright might very properly have refused to give him the command. As you cannot spare a Capt: from your Cantonment recommend that Capt. Taylor may be continued - He was entirely a Stranger to me when he came here - but I am much pleased with he appears to be a most amiable man and for his opportunity a good officer

Upon the other subject contained in your letter you will I hope excuse me from giving an opinion and believe that my reason for declining to give one are such as I cannot disregard -

I have herewith enclosed you Copies of two letters received from the Secy of War by the last Mail - by which you will perceive that the protection of this & the Illinois Territory has been confided to me & the means which he has authorised me to use for the purpose. Under the strong injunctions used by the Secretary not to employ the Troops under Colo. Boyd but in case of absolute necessity I have only called on Company under Capt. Piat. This will be placed in the Garrison of Fort Knox & report to you & be subject to your orders in every respect but as to a change of position - I do not think it proper for me to interfere nor shall I interfere in the police or internal arrangements of the Military that may be subjected to my controle (excepting in the way of advice) until a part of the Militia is ordered into service. Until this does take place I can only give instructions of a general nature - such as change of position or something of the kind leaving the execution entirely to the Officer Commanding. I have authority from the Secretary of War to build a fort or two higher up the Wabash than Fort Knox & the present Garrison of the latter was sent here for that express purpose. However it would be highly improper for me to use them without a fresh authority derived from the Secretary of War or yourself. The distance to the Seat of Government is too great to apply for it now - Indeed all that is necessary for the purpose would more probably come from you. I have therefore to request that you would send me an order to the Commanding officer to receive such instructions as I may give him - assuring yourself that none other will be given than such as are strictly compatible with the relative situations we occupy until the Militia are ordered into service. The enclosed letters demonstrating the views of the Government with respect to the Military arrangements in this quarter will be your complete Justification for any orders you may give on the occasion.

I meditate an expedition about the 20th of Septr. with the 2 companies of regular troops. 2 of Dragoons & about 14 Companies of Militia. Would you think yourself at liberty upon my recommendation and request to join me with all the troops you can spare from Belle Fontaine & to take command of the regulars & one of my Wings. I

Indeed if you brought no troops your personal services would be highly acceptable – You could leave the Cantonment & the Ladies to the care of our friend Capt. Owens for a few weeks –

I am With much regard
& Esteem Dr Sir
Your Hum Servt.
Willm Henry Harrison

Col. D. Bissell